

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE GUIDE

OVERLAND PARK CITY COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate Name: Faris Farassati

Candidate for Ward #: 5

Address:

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Campaign Treasurer: Dr. Tuba Esfandyari

Candidate's Occupation: Cancer Scientist

Work History – Last Five Years (25 word limit):

1- Associate Professor of Medicine, Kansas University Medical School. 2-Senior Cancer Scientist, Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center. 3-Councilmember, City of Overland Park, KS, (2017-current).

Most Recent Political/Community Experience (25 word limit):

1-Councilmember, City of Overland Park, KS, (2017-current). 2-Vice Chair, Public Safety committee, OP
3-Member, Community Development OP, 4-Board Member, Arts and Recreation Foundation of OP

Are you, or have you been, affiliated with a local or state chamber of commerce? If yes, please list chamber(s) and any leadership positions you have held (25 word limit):

N/A

Are you, or have you been, affiliated with any other business organization(s)? If yes, please list organization(s) (25 word limit):

N/A

As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues (25 words per line):

1. Public Awareness and Involvement in City affairs
2. Prioritizing tax dollars expenditure to projects benefitting the public significantly NOT private corporations
3. Enhancing the quality of life in OP

At 13.566 mills, Overland Park's tax rate is approximately half of our neighboring communities and remains the lowest of any first-class city in Kansas. Do you believe Overland Park citizens receive quality services and value for their tax dollars? What improvements, if any, would you make to the existing City budget?

1-Prioritizing tax dollars expenditure to projects benefitting the public significantly NOT private corporations. 2-Enhancing city services such as quality of roads, parks and public safety but redirecting tax dollars to these services. 3-Outsourcing City contracts to local businesses in order to help the OP's local economy.

What changes, if any, would you propose to the current City budget?

1-Increased investment in possible solutions to the growing problem of traffic in Overland Park such as widening major streets when possible. 2-Increasing investment in the quality and maintenance of streets including a solution to the chipseal issue.

What role, if any, do you believe the City should play in economic development to bring jobs and capital investment to Overland Park?

1-Logical use of Tax dollars in support of quality of life in OP such as roads, parks and public safety. 2- Ending tax giveaways to undeserving private corporate projects and re-using them to make OP a more attractive place for businesses. 3-Policies that strengthen our school system such as strengthening our school resource officer program and upgrading public infrastructure used by schools such as roads, parks etc.

What is your philosophy regarding the appropriate mix of residential, commercial and green space in development and redevelopment projects and the use of incentives for these projects?

It has to have a balance in a way that the "green nature" of Overland Park is preserved. Allowing rezoning that authorizes crowded and oversized complexes to be built in inappropriate locations is a threat to the landscape of overland park and quality of life for its residents.

What do you think the three greatest opportunities are for Overland Park's economy in the next ten years and how would you capitalize on them?

1-Increasing small business opportunities 2-Enhancing investment in our public infrastructure 3- Welcoming residents from diverse backgrounds by preserving the quality of neighborhoods.

What specific elements of Forward OP's Action Agenda do you consider to be among the highest priorities for implementation?

1-The connected City concept 2- Providing affordable housing 3-Providing public gathering spaces for neighborhoods

As the second largest city in the metro, what is your philosophy on the role Overland Park should play in terms of metro-area issues?

OP is a part of the big family of KC! I believe we should: 1- Complete and not compete: Enhance our areas of excellence rather than just competing with our neighboring cities. 2- Enhance communication with other local governments in order to face issues together: Important areas of cooperation exist specially in public safety. 3- Offer and advertise our amenities to all metropolitan KC such as Arboretum, Dianna Rose Farmstead...etc.

Why are you seeking public office? What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race, making you best suited to serve?

As a Cancer Scientist I provide critical analysis for each and every project. I promote an "evidence-based" government that makes decisions based on studies, research and logical decision making. I am not a lobbyist for special interest groups and I have no intention but serving the public. I listen to the people and value their opinion. This is what I have been doing all my life in the medical schools of this county and Kansas City VA hospital.